

seriously. Some of the things that we came up with was that accountability is provided through, number one, the gubernatorial election process. After all, we elect the governor. Then the legislative review, we approve here, the Legislature, all 49 members of us approve whether or not that appointment is good for the State of Nebraska. There is considerable attention, from the media, in interest groups and the citizens as to whether it is a good appointment. There is a limited turnover. The terms are staggered as a given governor can only make a few appointments in the four years. In the long term that they would serve the appointees outlast their governor. These rare efforts, where they say that the governor can stack or politicize or manipulate the appointments, this has been proven false in other states because of public outrage and the recent example of Tony Anania in New Mexico. The long ballot elections tend to discourage the public. Nebraska data shows that about one-sixth of those voting drop off before getting to the candidates for regents. This is very important. This was brought up several times during the hearings and during the meetings. Many voters are unable to name their regent. Many more are unable to give more than superficial reasons for supporting a particular candidate. As I say, I may go to the polls and vote against this, but at least give me the right to do that. We are not taking the right to vote on regents away from them. We are giving them another right. We are giving them another right to go to the polls and vote whether they want to make a change. Maybe this will lose miserably, but at least we've given them a right to vote. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Higgins, then Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President, colleagues. I don't know who handed out this hand sheet. It looks like PH, maybe it's Paul Hartnett, but I think he usually goes D. Paul Hartnett. So I can't think of any body else though. Oh, Peter Hoagland. I'm sorry. Looking at this, item number 2, follows recommendations of major studies, 1968, Governor Tieman's Little Hoover Commission, 1980 Governor Thone's Task Force for Government Improvement, 1980 National Commission on College and University Trustee Selection. I don't know who picked the people to be on that task force, 1984 Citizens Commission for the Study of Higher Education, Governor Kerrey. We have all these governors doing these